

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Computer apparatus having:

i) one or more data processors;

ii) persistent storage means connectable to said one or more data processors, said

persistent storage means storing a plurality of ~~data item~~ media file metadata items, one or more of said ~~data item~~ media file metadata items containing reference(s) to one or more other ~~data item~~ media file metadata items, whose metadata is about a media file whose content has been judged by a human to be semantically-related to the content of the first media file;

ii) volatile memory means, connectable to said one or more data processors, for storing one or more of said ~~data item~~ media file metadata items;

iii) database management system software executable by said one or more data processors to respond to a query by passing ~~data item~~ media file metadata items meeting one or more criteria specified in said query from said persistent storage means to said volatile memory means;

iv) querying code executable by said one or more data processors to pass a query to said database management system software;

v) pre-fetching code executable by said one or more data processors to:

a) analyse response ~~data item~~ media file metadata items provided in response to said query to find ~~related data items~~ said reference(s) to one or more other media file metadata items semantically related to said response ~~data item~~ media file metadata items; and

b) use said reference(s) to automatically generate another query for said related ~~data item~~
media file metadata items.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Computer apparatus according to claim 1 comprising a client computer and a server computer, each having at least one of said processors, said server computer having control over said persistent memory and said client computer having control over said volatile memory.

4. (Currently Amended) Computer apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said ~~data item~~ media file metadata items are transferred in the form of pages of memory.

5. (Currently Amended) Computer apparatus according to claim 3 in which said server computer resolves said query and sends the selected ~~data item~~ media file metadata items to said client computer.

6. (Previously Presented) Computer apparatus according to claim 3 in which said server computer sends said ~~data item~~ media file metadata items to said client computer and said client computer resolves said query.

7. (Previously Presented) Computer apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~data item~~ media file metadata items are software objects.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of operating computer apparatus comprising a processor and first and second data stores accessible to said processor, access by said processor to data held in said first store being quicker than access to said second store, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of ~~data item~~ media file metadata items in said second data store, together with relationship data comprising reference(s) to one or more related media file metadata items whose metadata is about a media file whose content has been judged by a human to be semantically related to said media file metadata item ~~indicating relationships between said data items~~; and

executing a process on said processor to:

i) fetch one or more ~~data item~~ media file metadata items from said second store together with said relationship data indicating including said reference(s) to one or more related data item ~~media file metadata items~~ media file metadata items semantically related to said fetched ~~data item~~ media file metadata item;

ii) responsive to receipt of said relationship data, use said reference(s) to fetch one or more of said semantically related ~~data item~~ media file metadata items from said second memory to said first memory; and

iii) check, on subsequent requests for a ~~data item~~ media file metadata item, whether said requested ~~data item~~ media file metadata item is present in said first store and read said ~~data item~~ media file metadata item from said first store if found.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 in which said ~~data item~~
media file metadata items comprise an identifier of a media file and metadata representing what
is portrayed by said identified media file.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 8 in which said second store holds a
database.